

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9019

UNCLAS TUNIS 2830

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TS, US

SUBJECT: NOUIRA VISIT: STATEMENT ON RETURN TO TUNIS

1. MAY 13 PRESS CARRIED TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA'S AIRPORT STATEMENT MADE MAY 11 WHEN HE RETURNED TO TUNIS FROM VISIT TO U.S. HE DECLARED THAT THE VISIT HE HAD MADE AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT FORD HAD BEEN FULLY POSITIVE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY DRAWN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION FROM THE CONVERSATIONS HE HAD HAD WITH PRESIDENT FORD TOUCHING ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN, ESPECIALLY THOSE DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST. "WE ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE USG." HE SAID.

2. NOUIRA WENT ON TO STATE THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT USG ATTACHES A SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUNISIA AND THAT, WITHIN THE JOINT COMMISSION, THE WAYS AND MEANS FOR CONTINUING THE BROAD MEASURE OF COOPERATION WHICH ALREADY EXISTS WILL PROMPTLY BE PUT IN ACTION. HE LATER NOTED THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION WILL MEET AGAIN IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER TO EXAMINE ALL OF THE QUESTIONS CONCERNING BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS.

3. NOTING THAT HE HAD ALSO HAD PRESS AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS WHILE IN U.S., NOUIRA SAID THAT EVERYONE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.S. IS GREATLY INTERESTED IN TUNISIA'S STABILITY

AND PROGRESS AND THAT THE COUNTRY ENJOYS WIDE RENOWN THANKS TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. BOURGUIBA, HE SAID, HAS THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF THE MAERICAN PEOPLE AS WELL AS OF THE LEADERSHIP.

4. NOUIRA FINISHED HIS STATEMENT BY TURNING TO INTER-NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND SAID THAT NOW THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE FAR EAST IS RESOLVED, THE U.S. WILL GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PRESIDENTS FORD AND SADAT IN SALZBURG, HE SAID, IS JUST ONE OF THE FIRST SIGNS OF THIS RETURN OF ATTENTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

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